

## **DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING AND PUBLIC COMMENT**

**PUBLIC MEETING:** Eastern Montgomery High School in Elliston, Virginia, on **Thursday August 4, 2005** from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. **Directions:** Eastern Montgomery High School is located at 4695 Crozier Road, which located off of Route 460/11 in Elliston.

**PURPOSE OF NOTICE:** The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality announces a public meeting to discuss a study to restore water quality in the Roanoke River watershed.

**DESCRIPTION OF STUDY:** Virginia agencies are working to identify sources of bacterial pollution and biological impairment (general standard) in the Roanoke River watershed. The bacteria exceeds water quality standards, which decreases the suitability of the water for swimming, kayaking and other recreational activities involving direct contact with the water. The general standard indicates the water quality is unable to support a natural aquatic community.

The following is a list of the "impaired" waters, the length of the impaired segment, their location and the reason for the impairment: Ore Branch (L04R-3.9 miles), Roanoke City, bacteria; Wilson Creek (L02R - 5 miles), Montgomery County, bacteria; Roanoke River (L04R-11.72 miles), Roanoke City, bacteria and biological; Roanoke River/Smith Mountain Lake (L12L - 378 acres), Bedford and Franklin County, bacteria.

During the study, the state agencies will develop a Total Maximum Daily Load, or a TMDL, for the impaired waters. A TMDL is the total amount of a pollutant a water body can contain and still meet water quality standards. To restore water quality, contamination levels have to be reduced to the TMDL amount.

**HOW TO COMMENT:** DEQ accepts written comments by e-mail, fax or postal mail. Written comments should include the name, address and telephone number of the person commenting and be received by September 9, 2005. DEQ also accepts written and oral comments at the public meeting announced in this notice.

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**CONTACT FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

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